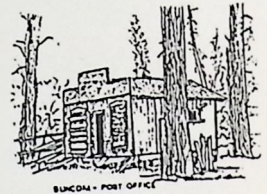




# BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1996



## CENTENNIAL PROFIT WILL GO TO PROTECT BUNCOM'S BUILDINGS

Thanks to the support of all of our members and some 2,500 members of the general public who attended the Centennial, there's about to be reconstruction activity at Buncom.

With a profit of more than \$3,500 from the Centennial, the hard work and solid support from so many of our members has made it possible to undertake many long-awaited repairs to the buildings.

As you know, our intention is to keep the buildings in what preservationists call a state of "arrested decay." That means we don't restore them to their heyday, but pick a point in time and maintain the appearance they had then.

The Society's Board of Directors has asked for bids from contractors to replace the roofs on the Cookhouse and Bunkhouse, and any associated structural work that needs to be done. We also plan to put doors and windows in the Bunkhouse. The wood panels we use to cover them are broken down regularly by vandals.

Two years ago we replaced the roof of the Post Office and raised that building onto new supports. Later we replaced its doors and windows. That just about completes out

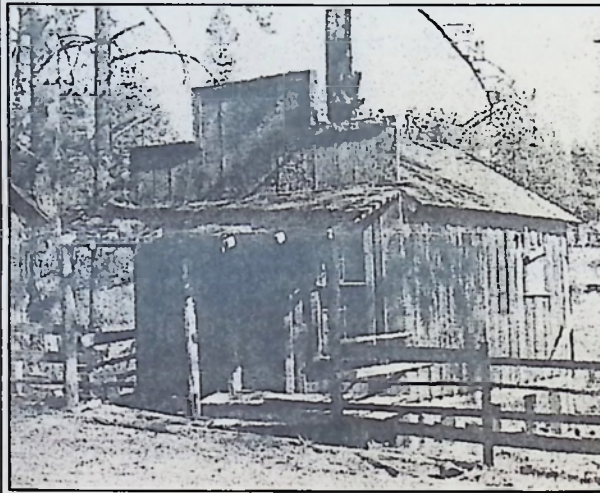
plans for that building.

Now it's time to go to work on the others. Director Ron Marchetti, a designer and builder who owns Sterling Gate Design, is working with interested contractors to make sure we retain the character and authenticity of the buildings.

We hope the work can get underway soon and be completed this fall, so the

buildings will be protected from the weather this winter. If so, we will have pictures of the "new look" (or should that be "old look"?) in the next newsletter.

### BUNCOM IN THE 1950s



The Post Office as it looked in the mid-1950s. It's the oldest photo we've found of any of the buildings. (See story on Page 2.)

### THINK CHRISTMAS!

Unique Centennial items make great gifts. See the order form attached.



## WORK PARTY PLANNED

We're hoping to schedule a work party this fall to do some of the repair work on the Bunkhouse and Cookhouse. We'll advise you of the date by mail -- and by a sign on the Post Office -- as soon as we have a date.

## MANY MEMBERS OFFER PHOTOS, RECOLLECTIONS

In the last few months, we have been pleased to correspond with a number of folks who have pictures and recollections about Buncom in past days.

One of those was Bob Reeve Vroman, of Medford, who offered the picture of Buncom in the 1950s on Page 1. Bob was a photographer for the Medford Mail Tribune a number of years ago. He told us his grandfather and uncle, both with the last name "Reeve," were miners on Sterling Creek and used to buy chewing tobacco at the Buncom store.

(Society President Reeve Hennion took particular interest in Bob's connection!)

Also sharing their knowledge of Buncom in the old days were Mrs. G.C. Wales of Yreka, Calif., who lived at Buncom while growing up in the early 1920s; Dan Vanderhoof of Olympia, Wash., who lived in the Cookhouse with his family when he was a boy in the 1930s, and Dennis and Jo-Ann Matheny of the Applegate, who donated some postal artifacts about Buncom. And of course many other members have offered photos, tidbits and reminiscences of Buncom over the past few years.

Knowing more about Buncom's past enhanced it for all of us. We urge any of you with photos or stories about Buncom to send them to us. We will copy any photos at Society expense and return the originals to you.

## APPLEGATE VALLEY DAYS SET FOR SEPT. 27-28

A celebration called "Livin' in the Applegate" is set for Ruch school on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 27-28. Proceeds go to the Applegate Valley Community Center and the Friends of the Ruch Library. Many of our members are involved.

On both Friday and Saturday nights, there will be live music and dancing, and a barbecue by the Applegate River Ranch House Restaurant. The group "Good Comp'ny" will play on Friday night. You'll remember both from the Centennial.

On Saturday all day long there will be craft and booths, information displays, games and other activities for the kids, a horseshoe tournament and lots more.

Plan to be there!

## ROBERTS NAMED TO SOHS BOARD

J.B. Roberts, secretary of our Society, has been named to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. J.B. was one of the founding directors of our Society, and we are pleased that "one of ours" is represented on the board of SOHS, the umbrella society for Southern Oregon.

## CENTENNIAL BRINGS NEW AWARENESS OF BUNCOM

It seems that since the Centennial, there is a new awareness of Buncom in Medford and Southern Oregon. The publicity and word-of-mouth by all the people who came out for the celebration must have had an impact. Not that we're looking to make Buncom an attraction, but it is nice that when those of us who live in the area say we live at Buncom, people don't look at us like we're deranged.



## IT'S NOT ALL SERIOUS BUSINESS AT BUNCOM

The Centennial had its lighter moments, too. For example, the following proclamation prepared in honor of the event:

**PROCLAMATION**  
*by the*  
**LEGISLATURE (pro tem)**  
*of the*  
**GREAT STATE OF**  
**JEFFERSON**

**TO ALL WHOSE THESE PRESENTS  
MAY COME. GREETING:**

WHEREAS, The architecture of Buncom epitomizes the grandeur of the Great State of Jefferson.

WHEREAS, The citizens of Buncom are known as loyal to their friends, terrible to their enemies, and elusive to their creditors.

WHEREAS, The contributions of Buncom's intelligentsia to literature and the arts make it the Athens of the Northwest.

WHEREAS, The Buncom Town Council has governed peaceably and prosperously for five years with a zero tax rate.

WHEREAS, The Buncom Historical Society has marshaled the efforts of the most diverse group since the cantina scene in Star Wars to preserve Buncom for a grateful world.

THEREFOR, We, the assembled legislature, do hereby proclaim Buncom as the capitol city of the Great State of Jefferson, in perpetuity, with all rights, privileges, and perquisites pertaining thereto.

Done this twenty-fourth day of May, MCMXCVI, under our hand and seal.

**Cincinnatus P. Cornpone**

*Senate Majority Leader*

*Legislature (pro tem) of the Great State  
of Jefferson*

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KEEPS GROWING

Our membership count keeps growing. The Society now has 253 members. It wasn't so long ago that we were trying to reach a goal of 100! The vast majority are from Southern Oregon, but we also have members in California, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, and Maryland.

We are grateful to you all for your interest and support.

## THE WAGONS ARE COMING!

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Applegate Trail, a wagon train will retrace the route, setting out from Winnemucca, Nevada, on Labor Day and arriving in Polk County, Oregon, late in October.

The wagons will be in Jackson County early in October. For more information about where to see them -- or how to take part -- call Society director Lyn Hennion at 772-6826 or 899-7656.

### DIRECTORS

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Reeve Hennion, President   | 899-7656 |
| Lyn Hennion                |          |
| J.B. Roberts, Secretary    | 899-1125 |
| Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer |          |
| Ron Marchetti              | 899-1263 |
| Donna Marchetti            |          |
| Ben Fowler                 | 899-7805 |
| Connie Fowler              |          |

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon.

Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>



# BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ORDER FORM

**Buncom Centennial** items make unique gifts! Think ahead to Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and other special days and place your order today!

**T-Shirts**, featuring Donna Marchetti's sketch of a stagecoach in front of the Post Office are available in **children's sizes** small (6-8) and medium (10-12) in **grey or red** and in **adult sizes** small and medium (these are great for kids!) in **green, grey, natural, paprika, stonewashed blue, and dusty rose**. Large sizes are available in **natural, dusty rose, and ash**.

**Mugs** with a circular Centennial "medallion" are light tan with brown lettering. Limited edition **posters** feature an 11"x17" full-color picture of Buncom, individually numbered and signed by Buncom's Mayor. Standard 4"x6" **postcards** also show a full-color photograph of Buncom. A few collectible postcards are stamped and bear the Centennial Cancellation. A few copies of our book, "**Buncom: Crossroads Station**," the 162-page history of the area, are also available.

| How many? | Item                               | Color/Size/Design                     | Price each                   | Total |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| _____     | <b>T-Shirts</b>                    | _____                                 | <b>\$14.50 (Child: \$12)</b> | _____ |
| _____     | <b>Mugs</b>                        | _____                                 | <b>\$10.00</b>               | _____ |
| _____     | <b>Posters</b>                     | <u><b>Rolled</b></u>                  | <b>\$ 8.00</b>               | _____ |
| _____     | <b>Posters</b>                     | <u><b>Mounted</b></u>                 | <b>\$12.00</b>               | _____ |
| _____     | <b>Postcards</b>                   | <u><b>Unmarked</b></u>                | <b>4 for \$1; 25 for \$5</b> | _____ |
| _____     | <b>Postcards</b>                   | <u><b>Stamped &amp; Cancelled</b></u> | <b>\$ 1.00 each</b>          | _____ |
| _____     | <b>"Buncom: Crossroad Station"</b> |                                       | <b>\$14.95</b>               | _____ |

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable and send to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.** Prices include shipping and handling. Questions? Call 541/899-7656.

For special shipping instructions, please check here ☐ and note on reverse.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Buncom Centennial Chardonnay and Merlot** are available at \$8.00/bottle through Valley View Winery, 1000 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Call 541/899-8468.

**Cafe Buncom Blend** is available at \$10.50/pound from Mellelo's Coffee Roasters, 100 E. 6th Street or 229 W. Main Street, Downtown Medford, OR 97501. Call 541/779-9884.

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Jacksonville, OR 97530

Eagle Point Hist. Society  
P.O. Box 201  
Eagle Point, OR 97524  
F.

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